

Case 3694***Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz, 1904 (Insecta, Coleoptera, ELATERIDAE): proposed conservation of the specific name by suppression of the name *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis, 1839**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz, 1904 (Insecta, Coleoptera, ELATERIDAE) by suppression of the name *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis, 1839 a senior secondary homonym, and a subjective junior synonym of *Pomachilius subfasciatus* Germar, 1824). Stability of taxonomy and nomenclature would best be served by suppressing the senior homonym.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; ELATERIDAE; *Aeolus variegatus*; *Pomachilius variegatus*; *Pomachilius subfasciatus*; click beetle; Neotropical.

1. Homonymy exists between the species-group names *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis (1839, p. 197) (Insecta, Coleoptera, ELATERIDAE) and *Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz (1904, p. 76) (Insecta, Coleoptera, ELATERIDAE). The publication history was discussed in detail by Johnson (2015).

2. The senior name was overlooked by Candèze (1860, 1891), being cited as a valid name before 1899 only by Gemminger & Harold (1869). After 1899, *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis was catalogued as a valid name by Schenkling (1925) and Blackwelder (1944) in *Aeolus* Eschscholtz, 1829. The name was confused with *Aeolus variegatus* Schwarz (1902, p. 145) by Schenkling (1925) and this confusion was repeated by Blackwelder (1944). *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis has no other identifiable record in the post-1899 scientific literature until now.

3. *Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz (1904) was treated as a valid name by Schwarz (1906), Schenkling (1925), Blackwelder (1957), Gaedike (1985) and Johnson (2015).

4. Johnson (2015) determined that *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis, 1839 is a junior subjective synonym of *Elater subfasciatus* Germar, 1824 (p. 50), currently as *Pomachilius subfasciatus* (Germar, 1824), and this combination was used in the six instances above. This synonymy resulted in removing the homonymy between *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis and *Aeolus variegatus* Schwarz, and brought *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis into senior secondary homonymy with *Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz.

5. The conditions of Article 23.9.1 cannot be met for the purpose of conserving the use of *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis, hence actions based on Article 23.9.2 are not possible.

6. Conserving the name *Pomachilius variegatus* Schwarz, 1904 which has no junior synonyms, is not expected to be problematic as the name though used only six times (see above) is more frequent than its senior homonym that was used only once before and three times (see above) after 1899 and is also now a junior subjective synonym

of *Pomachilius fasciatus* (Germar, 1824). The greater confusion would come from retaining *Aeolus variegatus* Curtis, 1839, a largely unused name.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *variegatus* Curtis, 1839, as published in binomen *Aeolus variegatus*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *variegatus* Schwarz, 1904, as published in the binomen *Pomachilius variegatus*;
 - (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *variegatus* Curtis, 1839 as published in the binomen *Aeolus variegatus* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).